

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10

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-----140107Z 088843 /64

R 121500Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4327

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 2131

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, ILO, SZ

SUBJ: ILO: 63RD INTL LABOR CONFERENCE: DEMARCHE TO SWISS FEDERAL COUNCILLOR (MIN OF COMMERCE, LABOR & AGRIC) BRUGGER

REF: BERN 2108

1. ON MAY 11, ACCCOMPANIED BY DCM, I CALLED ON SWISS FEDERAL COUNCILLOR ERNST BRUGGER, WHOSE DEPT OF PUBLIC ECONOMY INCLUDES LABOR MATTERS. ALSO PRESENT WERE DIRECTOR JEAN-PIERRE BONNY OF THE FEDERAL LABOR OFFICE, AND RENE GREVER, ADVISOR FOR INTL LABOR MATTERS.

2. AFTER I PRESENTED SAME POINTS I MADE ON MAY 10 TO FONMIN GRABER (REFTEL), BRUGGER SAID SWISS UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION AND WERE IN BASIC SYMPATHY WITH IT. THEY WOULD REGARD IT AS A TRAGEDY IF THE US LEFT THE ILO. HE THEN ASKED BONNY TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC POINTS I RAISED.

3. BONNY SAID SWISS VALUED THEIR CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH US IN ILO MATTERS AND REFERRED

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WARMLY TO BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IN RECENT MONTHS. SWISS WANTED US TO REMAIN IN ILO, NOT MERELY BECAUSE OF OUR SUBSTANTAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT, BUT BECAUSE WITHOUT US AND OTHER LEADING INDUSTRIAL NATIONS, ILO WOULD BE "A JOKE". THEY FULLY SHARED OUR CONCERN ABOUT INCREASING POLITICIZATION OF THE ORGANIZATION.

4. BONNY SAID SWISS WILL WORK AT JUNE CONFERENCE FOR RETURN TO ORIGINAL CONCEPT OF ILO AND TO CLEAR BOOKS ON THE 1974 ISRAELI RESOLUTION. THEY WILL SUPPORT US IN SEEKING TO AMEND RESOLUTION 17, AND AGREE THAT FURTHER SESSIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURAL REFORM SHOULD BE DEFERRED.

5. REFERRING TO THE TRIPOLI MEETING, BONNY NOTED THAT THE US DELEGATION HAD SUSTAINED IMPRESSION THAT SOME AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES, WHEN APPROACHED INDIVIDUALLY, WERE MODERATE ON POINTS AT ISSUE. SWISS FELT, HOWEVER, THAT WHEN POINTS COME TO OPEN VOTE, THOSE AFRICANS WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO TAKE SAME POSITION IN PUBLIC. HE OBSERVED THAT ONLY THE GOVERNING BODY COULD VOTE IN SECRET.

6. IN CONCLUSION, BRUGGER SAID AGAIN THAT HIS GOVT FULLY UNDERSTANDS OUR VIEWS, SYMPATHIZES WITH THEM, AND WOULD BE DISTRESSED IF WE FELT OBLIGED TO LEAVE THE ILO. THE SWISS DELEGATION AT GENEVA WILL BE INSTRUCTED ACCORDINGLY, ALTHOUGH AS HOST DELEGATION IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO BE TOO OVERLY ACTIVE.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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BRUGGER
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